NorthHFutures
Northern Health Futures Hub

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

NorthHFutures Public Showcase

16:00 | Closing Address

NHS North East and North Cumbria

North East North Cumbria Health & Care Partnership

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority



Dan Jackson

Director of Policy, Public & Stakeholder Affairs, North East & North Cumbria NHS;
Assistant Director of Public Reform, Health & Prevention, NE Mayoral Strategic Authority

Working together to improve health and care in our region



Dan Jackson

Director of Policy, NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB;

AD, Public Service Reform, Health and Prevention, North East MSA

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority | Kim McGuinness North East Mayor

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NORTHUMBERLAND LINE





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Local Growth Plan

Our high-growth sectors

- Offshore wind and energy transition
- Advanced manufacturing
- Creative industries and content
- Life sciences and pharma
- Tech, digital and AI
- Defence, security and space













North East Mayoral Strategic Authority | Kim McGuinness North East Mayor

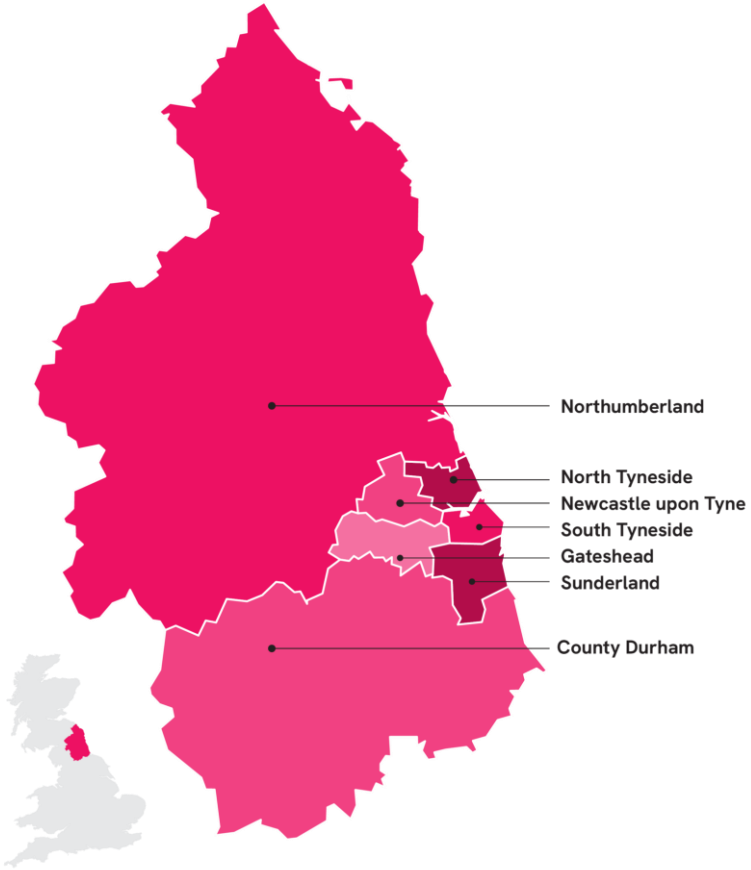
This is A New Deal for North East Workers

1	**Build a bigger, better skilled, and more diverse workforce**	**Ambition:** Our key growth sectors are equipped with a diverse high-skilled workforce, and our foundational economy is supported to grow and thrive. All residents and employers benefit from the same high-quality, comprehensive, and consistent service, wherever they are in the region, underpinned by an integrated, stable and reformed employment and skills sector.
2	**Creating career pathways that enable employers to recruit and retain skilled staff**	**Ambition:** Employers of all sizes are able to fill job vacancies and benefit from a stable, productive, skilled workforce, offering good jobs with opportunities for progression to people from all backgrounds.
3	**Targeted support to improve employment rates for all residents**	**Ambition:** Residents with health conditions and disabilities, and those with multiple complex barriers, have the opportunity to develop their skills, do rewarding work and lead productive, healthy and independent lives. Young people have the skills, confidence and support for their aspirations to progress into a job and lead fulfilling working lives.
4	**Tackling barriers that prevent residents getting into and getting on at work**	**Ambition:** Residents from all backgrounds and communities have access to the basic services and conditions they need to participate in education and training and to get and keep a rewarding job, including affordable childcare / social care, reliable public transport, and fair wages and secure employment terms.

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The Opportunity of Devolution

- Economic inclusion has to be our core growth strategy, not an add-on. The region's productivity depends on mobilising its underutilised human capacity.
- The North East's labour market, health profile, institutional history—means that national one-size-fits-all programmes consistently underperform here.
- A centralised system has been tried for decades but the North East's outcomes have not converged with the national average.
- We have earned the right to try something different—and to be held accountable for the results.
- Devolution won't magically fix deep-seated challenges, but it creates the conditions for a different approach: joining up what's fragmented, sustaining what's effective, adapting what doesn't fit, and building local capacity that compounds over time.



Percentage who are economically inactive - aged 16 to 64

North East

North East

See ICB level data | Switch to local authority

The region had an **estimated 423,700 people economically inactive** in the latest 12-month period. The latest rate, at around **26%, is lower than in the previous period** (no statistically significant difference).

The latest rate in the **North East region is significantly higher compared with England.**

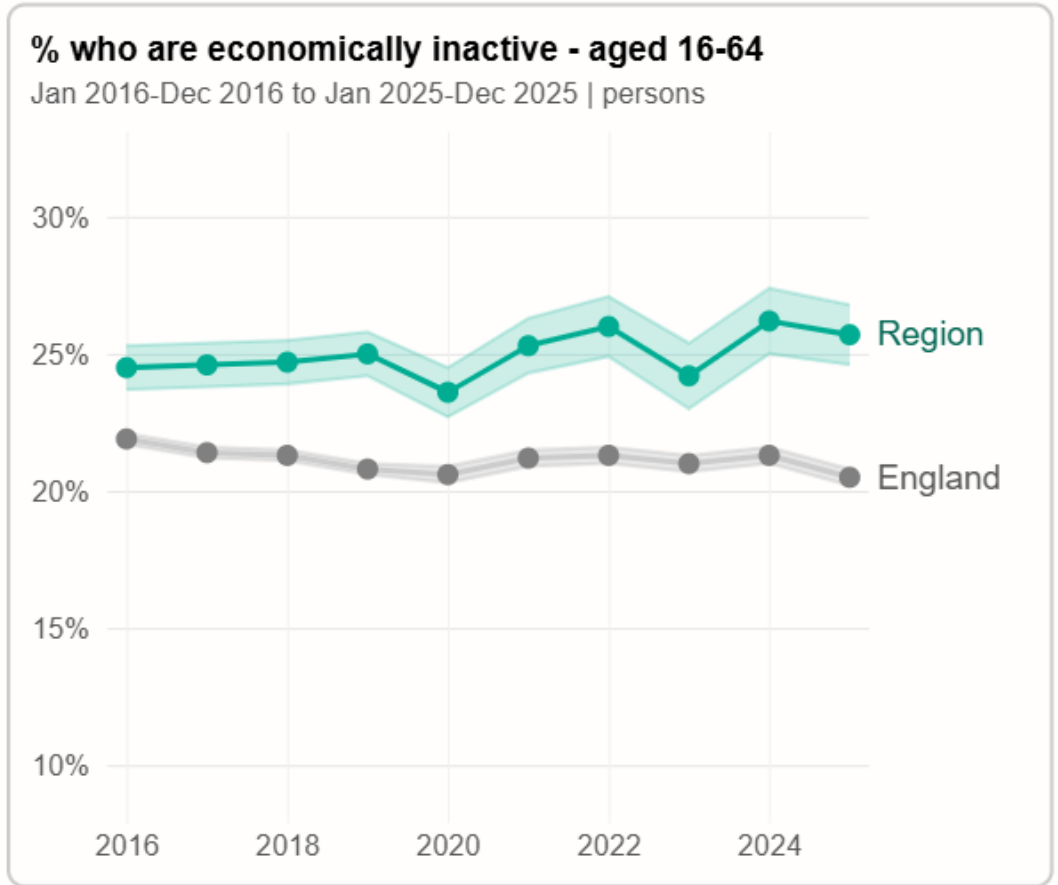
The rate in Jan 2025-Dec 2025 in the region was around 26%. The estimated rates vary by local authority, ranging from around 21% to 32%.

In the same period around 23% of men aged 16 to 64 were economically inactive in the North East region, a rate which is significantly lower compared with women at around 28%.

Background

As noted by the recent Institute of Fiscal Studies report, there was a reversal of

Scroll down text for more information



Region value and 95% confidence intervals

Jan 2025-Dec 2025

Latest regional and England values:

Region	25.7%
England	20.5%

Significantly different

Local authority variation
in the region, from lowest to highest values:

Lowest	21.4%
Highest	32.4%

Absolute difference of 11.0%

Regional breakdown by sex:

Female	28.4%
Male	23.0%

Significantly different

(statistical significance to 95% level)

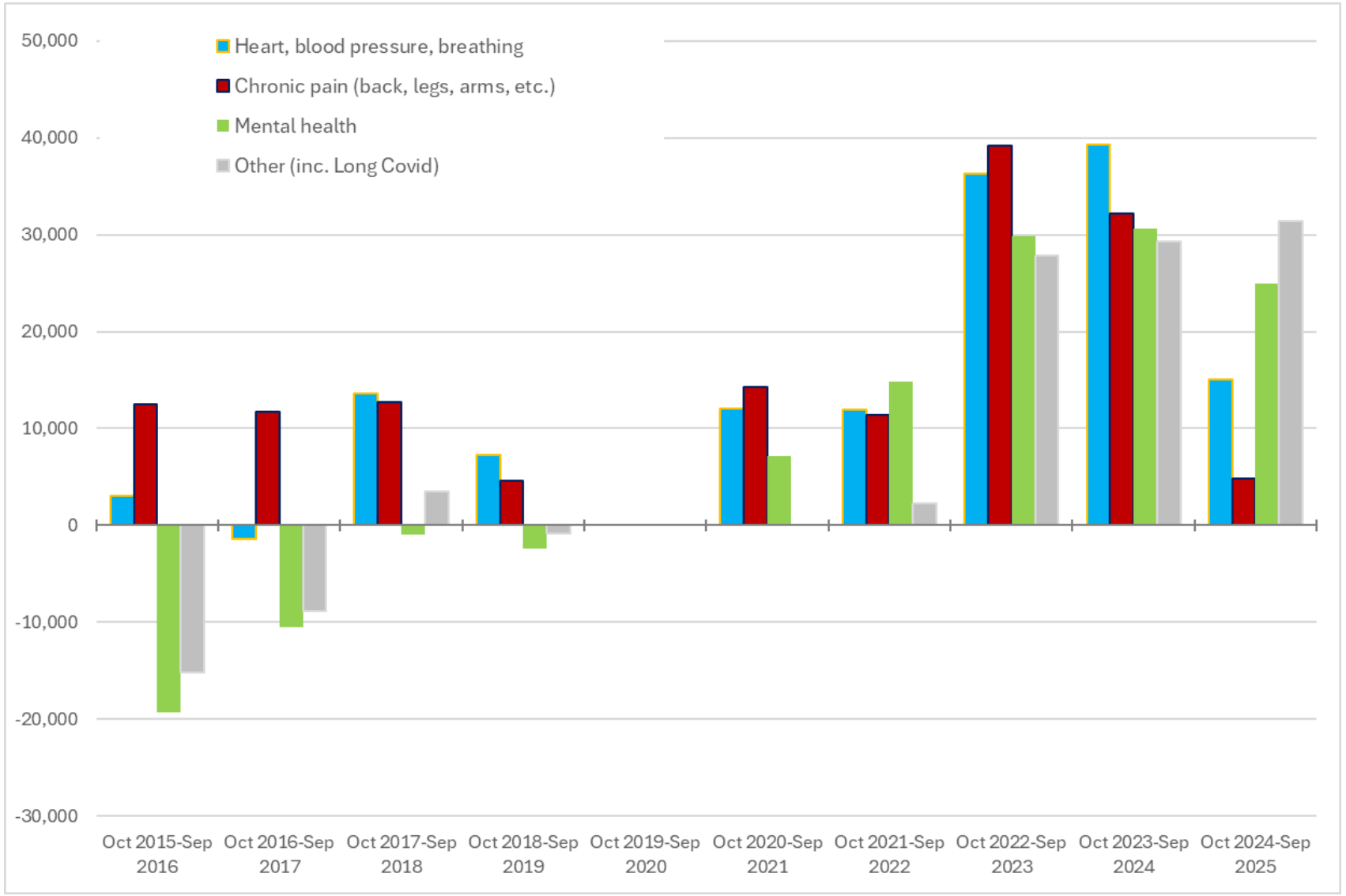
Data source: Office for National Statistics. Indicator source: Produced by Office for National Statistics from Annual Population Survey, accessed via annual population survey - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk) - % who are economically inactive - aged 16-64. Please note numbers have been rounded to nearest 100. Percentages in text rounded to nearest whole number. APS estimates have not been reweighted to new populations and consequently, will be inconsistent with the population totals used for the Labour Force Survey in the latest periods.

What closing the gap could achieve

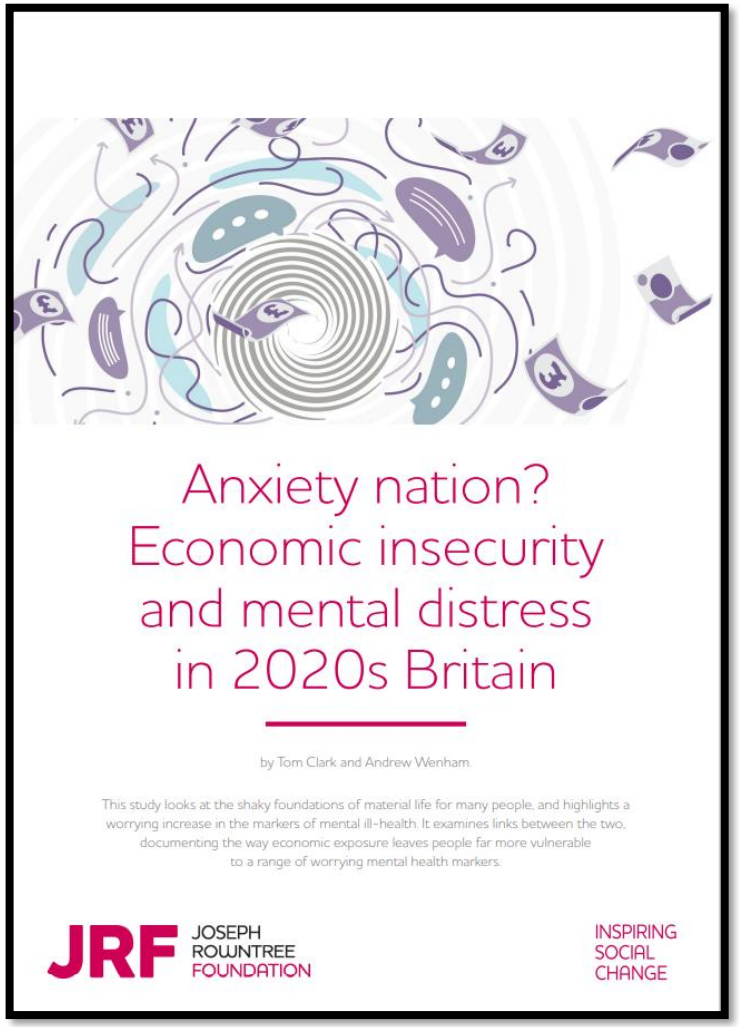
- **Employment gains -** Working-age population (16–64): 1.2 million; economic inactivity gap of 5.2%; current numbers of economically inactive residents: 308,000; closing the gap would **move circa 62,000 additional working-age residents into the labour market.**
- **Economic output –** using North East GVA per filled job of £55,000 (and assuming around 2/3 of those newly active secure employment) - **£2.2–2.5 billion in additional annual GVA for the NE economy**
- **Annual Fiscal savings – circa £750m–£1.1 billion** – based on welfare / benefits (ESA/UC health element, PIP, Housing Benefit): £620m–£750m; NHS & social care > £125m–£250m; wider public services (mental health, housing support, crisis interventions), £35m–£75m
- **Public health gains** - healthy life years gained (population total), **60,000–125,000 additional healthy life years**, narrowing the four-year gap with England by up to 25%; 11-18,000 fewer people with limiting long-term illness, 18,000–25,000 people with reduced depression/anxiety; 300,000–450,000 fewer GP consultation per year; 6-9,000 fewer emergency hospital admissions

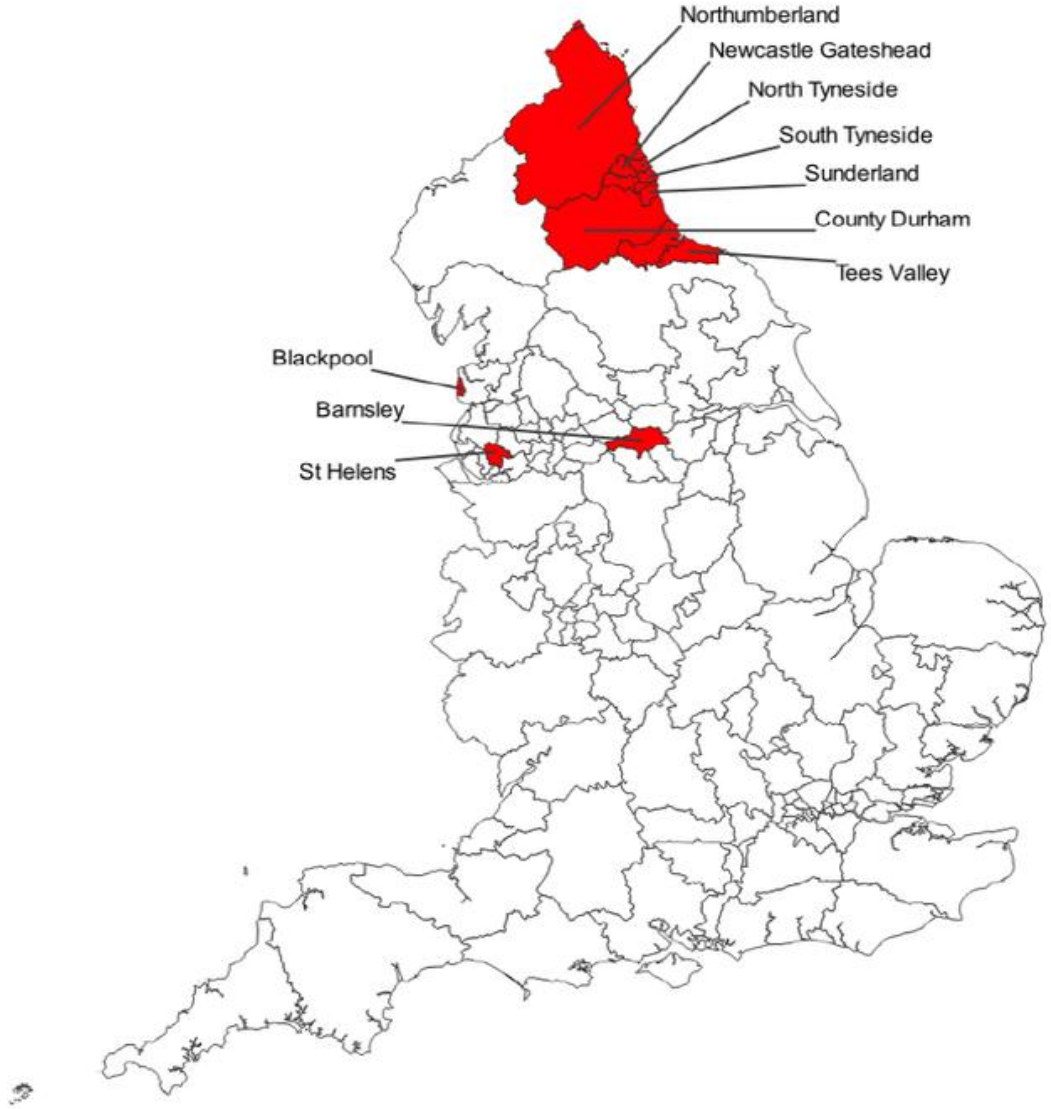
North East economic inactivity among adults with specific health condition compared to 2019/20

- Among economically inactive adults in Oct 24-Sep 25, the number with mental health problems in the North East CA area was about 41,000 higher than five years earlier.
- The number with heart, blood pressure, breathing and similar problems was about 25,000 higher, with the number in chronic pain being 8,000 higher.
- The number of adults in the latter two categories had each increased by over 30,000 in the first three years of this period but had fallen since.



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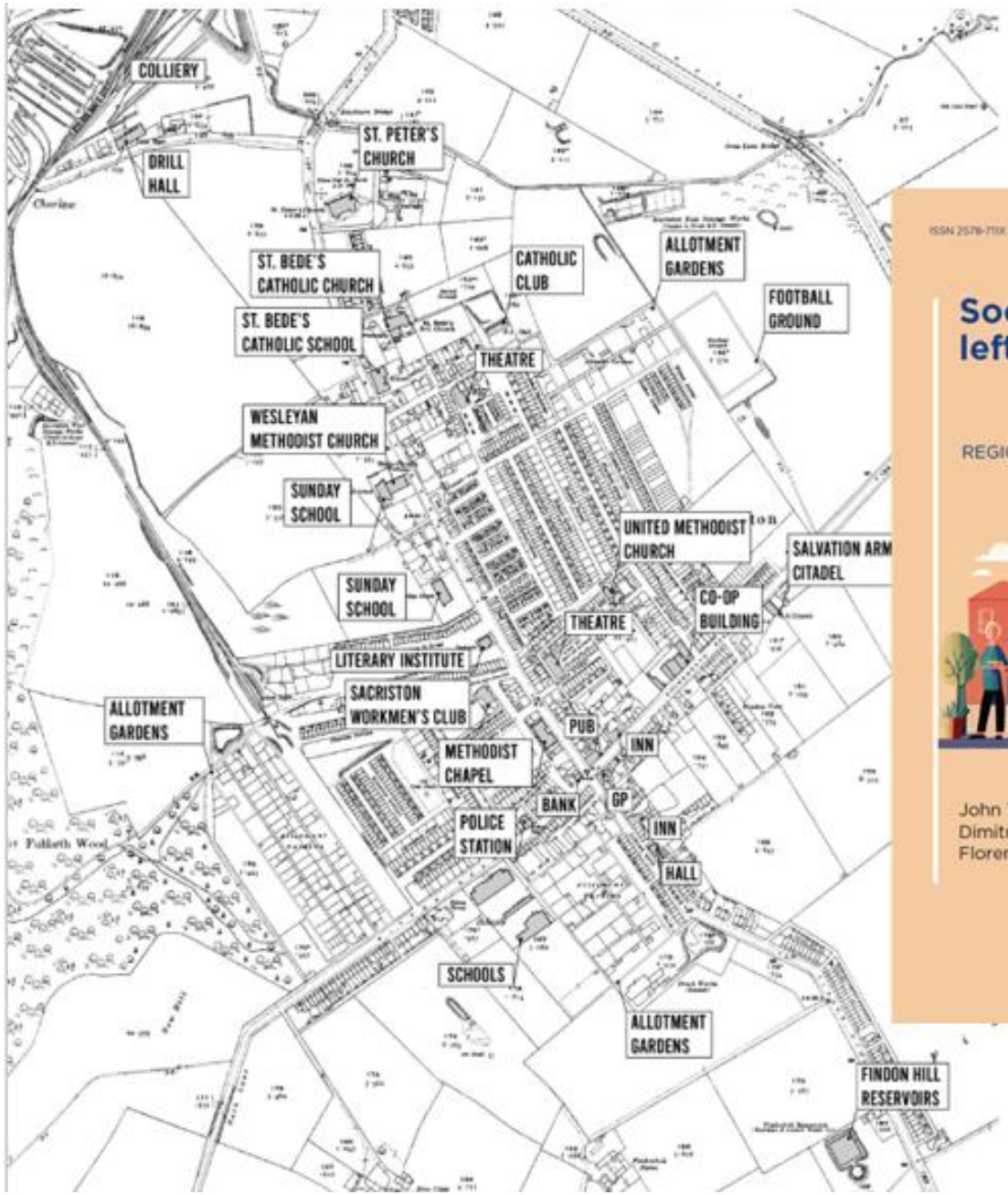




The 10 English communities with the highest rates of antidepressant prescriptions per 1,000 inhabitants

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Social infrastructure and left behind places

REGIONAL STUDIES POLICY IMPACT BOOKS



John Tomaney, Maeve Blackman, Lucy Natarajan,
Dimitrios Panayotopoulos-Tsiros,
Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite and Myfanwy Taylor

RSA Regional Studies Association
Research Today, Policy Tomorrow





NHS
North East and
North Cumbria

NENC Health and Growth Accelerator Programme – 'WorkWell'

£19m Government investment

Health and Growth Accelerator site

Joining up support across NHS, councils, job support services, voluntary & community organisations, employers & many more

Tackling the top 3 causes of ill-health at work:

1. Mental health
2. Muscle & joint problems
3. Long term conditions

Why this matters:

Good work = good health

1 in 5 working age people in region have a health condition that impacts on their ability to work

Three key actions:

New NHS WorkWell services inc. coaches/advisors

Extr… for NH… staff… th…

Over 300 GP Practices have signed up to WorkWell

What's happening?

£435k one-stop-shop clinics: faster diagnosis and treatment for 2,400 women with gynaecological conditions

£2m boost to Waiting Well service: extra help for people with chronic pain and mental health while waiting for surgery

£1.4m to tackle back pain: one of the biggest causes of poor health and time off work in the UK – quicker treatment, more physio, faster access to care and better training for staff

NHS W…kW…

25 extra Wo…Well co…es/adv…rs across the region

Training and mentorship for coaches

Local health and wellbeing services tailored to communities

…/.uk

Free, safe & Anonymous

tellmi



Anxiety
Am I normal?
Autism
Depression
Coming Out
Exams
Mental Health
+ more

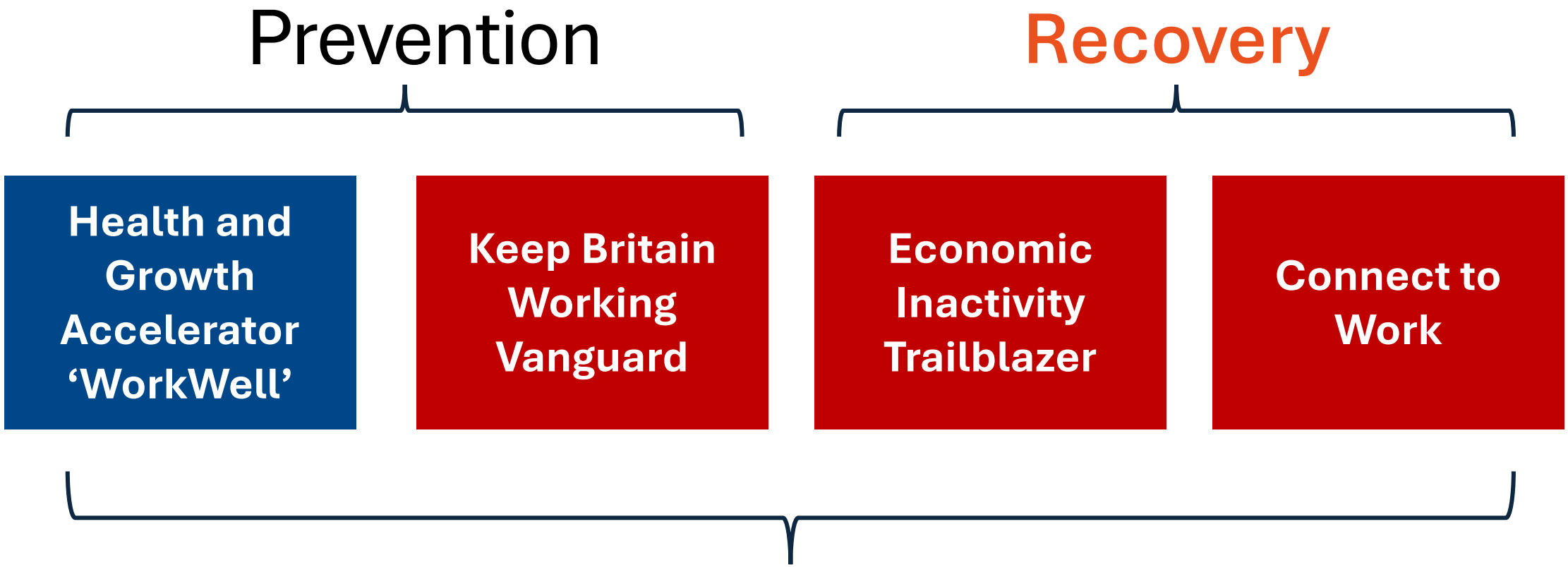




Increase Crowds
Add Drunk Passenger
Reach Station

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority

DR JULIAN™
THE APP FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING


Prevention
Recovery
Health and Growth Accelerator 'WorkWell'
Keep Britain Working Vanguard
Economic Inactivity Trailblazer
Connect to Work
No wrong door: a single, integrated health and work system

Final reflections

- The North East and North Cumbria has an opportunity to become the national testbed for joining up health, employment, skills and digital innovation. Good health is not simply a health outcome – it is a foundation for economic growth, workforce participation and thriving communities.
- Through programmes such as the Health and Growth Accelerator, we are learning that tackling health-related economic inactivity requires a whole-system approach: bringing together employers, the NHS, local government, universities, voluntary organisations and employment services around a shared goal of helping people stay well, stay connected and stay in work.
- Digital technology must be deployed with purpose. From AI-enabled population health insights and predictive analytics to digital health coaching and virtual support communities, technology can help us identify need earlier, personalise support and reach people who too often fall through the gaps.
- We should be ambitious about using digital tools to combat social isolation as well as poor health. The strongest evidence shows that combining digital innovation with trusted community relationships can improve mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness and strengthen people's confidence to engage in work, learning and society.
- The challenge is not simply innovation but adoption. Our region's success will depend on improving digital inclusion, digital literacy and public trust, ensuring that every resident can benefit from new technologies regardless of age, income, disability or location.
- The conversations we've had today demonstrate the strength of our regional partnership. If we continue to combine world-class research, community expertise and public service leadership, we can build a healthier, more connected and more economically active North East and North Cumbria that becomes a model for the rest of the country.